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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0863
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ EPA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRAGUE 000733

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/ERA MBEH
DEPT FOR OES/EGC DNELSON AND BZAITCHIK
USDA FOR FAS/OCRA DSALMON, BBAYSINGER
USEU FOR AGRICULTURE/ECON MINISTER COUNSELORS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KGHG](#) [EAGR](#) [SENV](#) [ENRG](#) [TRGY](#) [EZ](#)

SUBJECT: CZECH RESPONSE: ACTION REQUEST: DELIBERATION BY
MEMBER STATES ON EU BIOFUELS SUSTAINABILITY LEGISLATION

REF: SECSTATE 123492

(U) This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please protect accordingly.

11. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraphs 3-4.

12. (SBU) The regional FAS officer and EconOffs delivered reftel demarche to Environment Ministry Director of Sustainable Energy and Transport Vladimir Vlk and First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ivo Hlavac on November 25. We also shared reftel points with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Ministry of Environment has the lead on this issue. Vlk, who chairs the interagency committee on biofuels, agreed with reftel points in principle. He reported, however, that these issues had already been discussed within the EU and had in essence already been decided. He suggested that the Czech Republic was not willing to push the EU to reopen the discussion on these issues. The Czech goal was for the climate change package to be decided under the French Presidency, and the Czechs would not create any obstacles to this.

13. (SBU) First Deputy Agricultural Minister Hlavac was very receptive of our arguments in favor of U.S-EU collaboration toward the development of compatible, science-based sustainability criteria and against creating additional barriers to transatlantic trade. He asked for more information on the European Commission's positions regarding our points. He also asked for more information on our proposals regarding biofuels collaboration as well as more specificity on what actions we would like from the Member States. He noted that if we could provide this information to him quickly, he was willing to push our points within the Czech interagency community.

14. (SBU) Action request. Since the Environment Ministry has the lead on biofuels, most likely the Czechs will end up supporting whatever consensus emerges within the EU on the biofuels directive as they want the issue concluded as soon as possible. That said, we would like to take advantage of the Deputy Agriculture Minister's offer to push the issue within the Czech government. Thus we request that the department send to us as soon as possible the information requested in paragraph 3.
Graber